

Staff Reporter

Huge nets and hilsa were seized while some fishermen fined for catching hilsa in Narayanganj, Jhalakati, Goa-landa of Rajbari, Patuakhali and Barguna districts on Monday defying a ban. In Narayanganj, members of Bangladesh Coast Guard arrested nine fishermen on charge of catching hilsa in the Meghna River in Arahazar upazila.

They also seized 450,000 meters of hilsa nets, 70,000 meters banned current nets and 80 mounds of hilsa from their possession.

The detained nine fishermen were fined Tk 22,000 by a mobile court.

In Jhalakati, three mobile court in separate drives seized 22,000 meters of current nets worth Tk 3.33 lakh in different parts of the district on Monday.

In Goalanda of Rajbari, local administration, river police and fisheries department in separate drives seized 70,000 meters current nets and seized 160 kgs of hilsa in the last 24 hours.

Besides, eight fishermen were fined Tk 16,000 during the drives.

In Patuakhali, a mobile court arrested 24 fishermen along with two trawlers and Tk 5-lakh current nets while catching fish in Kuakata. Of them, nine were sentenced to one year's imprisonment each.

In Barguna, Coast Guard members in a drive arrested a man along with 2,000 hilsas from Sakina Bazar in Tal-tali upazila on Sunday night. Later, he was fined Tk 2,000.

The government imposed an 11-day ban on catching, selling and transportation of hilsa from October 5 across the country to ensure safe spawning and protect the mother fish.

While, Fisheries and Livestock Minister Muhammed Sayedul Hoque yesterday informed that current nets worth Tk 2052.48 crore and 20.912 tonnes of hilsa were seized in eight days since the 11-day ban on catching, selling and transportation of hilsa began on October 5, said During the period, a total of 708 mobile courts also fined fishermen Tk 25.197 lakh in different parts of country, he said.

The minister came up with the information while talking to reporters after a meeting with members of Coast Guard, Border Guard Bangladesh, River Police and officials concerned of the Fisheries Ministry at the secre-tariat.

The government has imposed an 11-day ban on catching, selling and transportation of hilsa from October 5-15 across the country to ensure safe spawning and protect mother fish, said Sayedul.

But some dishonest people have been engaged in catching, selling and transporting hilsa defying the ban. So, the government has taken action in different parts of the country with the help of law enforcement agencies, he said.

Ministry sources said a total of 708 mobile courts were conducting drives in seven divisions of the country. Some 20.912 tonnes of hilsa and nets worth Tk 2052.48 crore were seized while 565 fishermen were arrested and fined Tk 25.197 lakh during the drives across the country. The minister said the seized hilsas were distributed among different orphanages while the seized nets were de-stroyed.

The law enforcers have been directed to detain those who are staying in the deep sea for catching fish, defying the ban while returning through Kanraphuli estuary and several points, the Minister said.

Sayedul also claimed as the ministry took steps against the use of steroid and hormone injections to fatten cattle, people refrained from buying such animals during Eid-ul-Azha which

caused huge losses to the cattle traders.